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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

Statement submitted by the Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'education prénatale, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Prenatal education, which is aimed at preventing any physical and mental disorders as well as being vital to health and a factor for peace, is a priority requirement in modern societies.

1. The goal of the Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'education prénatale, which has 17 associations in four continents, is to promote prenatal education worldwide. It carries out scientific studies that show how important it is for parents to stay positive and adopt a healthy lifestyle during the prenatal period, since that makes for healthy, mentally well-balanced and intelligent children.

2. Indeed, scientific and genetic research has showed that the foundations of human health, mental balance and intelligence are laid during the prenatal period. The physical and psychological well-being and health of the parents-to-be determine the social behaviour of the unborn child and future adult. It is therefore vital for future generations that future parents should be informed of this causal relationship by learning good parenting skills so that they provide the best possible environment for their children to develop, for the betterment of their future family and society as a whole.

3. Accordingly, prenatal education is the best way to prevent any physical and mental disorders in children and future adults, including aggressive behaviour and violence, because it is only by being at peace with ourselves that we are able to spread peace throughout the world. This ability to create peace within ourselves is nurtured during the prenatal period. Future parents can encode in the unborn child happiness, the ability to love, to engage in dialogue, cooperate and find equitable solutions to any conflict.

4. According to the American biologist and geneticist, Bruce Lipton, future parents are the "genetic engineers of their children". They can foster a healthy and peaceful society.

5. Prenatal education for the future parents, especially the mother, basically involves:

   1. A healthy lifestyle (nutrition and healthy lifestyle in accordance with WHO guidelines);

   2. A healthy, positive outlook on life (music and art appreciation, revelling in the beauty of nature, while respecting the culture of each country and individual);

   3. And, most importantly, communicating love between the mother, father and child (through caresses, haptonomy, speech and thoughts). According to Dr. Thomas Verny, this protective shield of love alleviates any day to day irritations.

6. Prenatal education and general awareness raising in that regard will have the following benefits:

1. Improved public health worldwide, including improvement in the physical and mental health of future generations and a decline in high-risk pregnancies, premature births and abortions;

2. A drop in violence and crime;

3. A healthier population and economic growth owing to the decline in handicaps, disorders, crime and improved efficiency of a considerable portion of the population;

4. Make young people better parents.

Each child is entitled to receive as a fundamental birth right from its parents a healthy and happy environment.

7. We propose that:

1. Prenatal education should be included as a fundamental right of every human being – from the moment of conception – in the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

2. This key subject, concerning the very essence of the human being, should be discussed as a topic in all the forums and sessions of the United Nations and its Member States devoted to health, the youth, children, women and the family.

3. Prenatal education should be included in the health and education programmes of all States Members of the United Nations.